
LESSON 13

MILITARY SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES

Introduction

Purpose	This lesson introduces you to the role of the military in supporting civil authorities.
Why Study Military Support to Civil Authorities?	Over the past several years, there has been a much higher propensity for civilian authorities to request military support in cases of local (CONUS) disasters and emergencies. Therefore, it is likely that most U.S. military forces continue to have some role to play in civil disturbance operations.
Relationship to Other Instruction	This text discusses the unique relationship between the U.S. military and civil authorities.
Study Hours	This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 2.5 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Command and Control	Evaluate the command and control architecture existing within the federal government specifically designed to provide military support to civil authorities. [JPME Area 1(c)]
Relationship	Explain the relationship between military authorities and local civilian authorities in a potential deployment of military support. [JPME Area 1(c)]
Activation	Examine how military support to civil authorities is activated.
<i>Posse Comitatus</i>	Assess <i>posse comitatus</i> . What does it mean, and what impact does it have on military operations? [JPME Area 2(b)]
JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	1/c/1.0 2/b/0.5

Discussion

Military Operations in Support of Civil Authorities

The U.S. military can provide a wide array of support to civil authorities throughout the country including disaster relief from floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes.

In the area of law enforcement, the U.S. military provides support to local authorities to combat terrorism or to provide explosive ordinance disposal. On one occasion, the state authorities in California requested military assistance during civil disturbances in Los Angeles County. Military assistance is continuously used in the battle against drug trafficking and to stem the flow of illegal immigrants across United States borders, especially in Florida, Texas, and California.

With the rise of violent and potentially destructive groups like militias and violent gangs, local authorities rely on assistance from the federal government to assist those local authorities when they lack the resources to deal with the challenges these groups present. In response to support requests from civil authorities, the federal government deploys federal troops (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines) to lend assistance when required.

Required Readings

Operations Other Than War (OOTW) Readings wDotto, Peter A., (LtCol) USMC. "Marines in Los Angeles." *Marine Corps Gazette*, October 1992. Find this reading in the *Operations Other Than War (OOTW) Readings*, Annex L, pp. L- to L-. LtCol Dotto discusses lessons learned by officers in Los Angeles during civil unrest operations in May of 1992.

wDelk, James D. (MG) USA. "Military Assistance In Los Angeles." *Military Review*, September 1992. Find this reading in the *Operations Other Than War (OOTW) Readings*, Annex L, pp. L- to L-. General Delk covers events that transpired during the California National Guard's deployment to LA. in May of 1992.

FMFM Readings FMFM 7-10, *Domestic Support Operations*, chapters 1, 3, and 9 (Extract). Find this reading in the *FMFM Readings* (8800), pp. 461 to 481. The FMFM covers domestic support operations.

For Further Study

Supplemental Readings

The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

wJoint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*.

wJoint Pub 3-07, *Joint Doctrine for Military Operations Other than War*.

Issues for Consideration

Executive Agent What executive departments play major roles in a federal response to civil disturbance operations, and who within the Department of Defense is designated the "executive agent" for domestic support operations?

Responsibilities What are the established responsibilities of the major CINCS involved with military support for civilian authorities?

Bosnia and the West What are some of the restrictions imposed on the military by the *Posse Comitatus* Act? Discuss some of the catches resulting from *Posse Comitatus* that the military experienced while deployed to quell the Los Angeles riots of 1992?
